ordinance for the appointment of officers as "controllers of native plantations". The first of these, Mr. G.H. Murray, was appointed in 1920 to serve the whole Territory (P.A.R. 1920-1 : 28). It was not until 1923 that a permanent officer, Mr. A.T. Dawson, was posted to the Northern District. Neither officer had been trained in agriculture.

The people of the Northern District were reported to be receptive to the idea of having their own plantations and "practically no compulsion" was applied in getting initial agreement to the principle (P.A.R. 1923-4 : 16).

Planting began in 1923 and by 1925 fourteen of the plantations had been planted. Owing to a delay in obtaining cocoa seedlings from Java, 30 acres of cotton were planted in 1925 (P.A.R. 1924-5 : 27). The cotton experiment was a failure and was not repeated. By 1926 there were only 50 acres of cocoa, 10 acres of coffee and 6 acres of oil palm in the district.(1) Eleven of the plantations were of cocoa, one of coffee and two of oil palm. A little rice was also tried. The cocoa, oil palm and rice were soon abandoned by both government and the people owing to a drop in prices, and only the coffee was persevered with.

In 1926 or 1927, a further 116 acres of land were cleared for coffee under government instructions, but the rate of expansion declined markedly thereafter. By 1936 there were 18 plantations totalling 242 acres under coffee in the Orokaiva area. 189 acres were then in bearing and the rest were expected to begin bearing by 1938. Plantings ranged in area from 4 to 30 acres.

Every able-bodied man between the ages of 16 and 36 years who lived within five miles of a plantation (except those employed by government, missions or European plantations) was required, by regulations under the ordinance, to work 60

(1) This figure included some private plantings in addition to those under the ordinance - P.A.R. 1926-7 : 10. Coffee seed was supplied from the government station at Higaturu.

Appendix F

The Orokaiva villager's experience of cash cropping

While the writer was conducting research into communal plantations in some villages, an assistant, Mr. Edric Eupu, visited others. The following brief extracts from two of his preliminary reports indicate the natuve of the villager's experience of cash cropping, and help to explain the current lack of enthusiasm on the part of many Orokaiva for further experiments.

Ahora Communal Garden

Before the war there were four cash crops planted at Ahora: coconut, cotton, cocoa and coffee. The coconut was planted on two clans' land. The names of the two clans were Huruba and Gambe. There were three villages took part in the work. The names of the villages and clans who took part in the work were ....

They planted coconuts but did not make any copra. [There was no market for it at the time]. The coconut was ready to make copra, but the Government officer at Buna told the people to plant the cotton. The cotton was planted on Gambe clan's land ..... The people worked one year for the cotton without pay .... When the cotton was ready .... they picked it and took it to Buna (government station) .... and they got paid. The pay was 1/- for each man in the three villages for the work they had done for the cotton. After they got the pay the work on the cotton stopped.

Then government told the villagers to plant the cocoa and they planted. It was planted on Gambe clan's land. The cocoa bore and they took the pods to Buna. Government paid for the pods [but the pay was insufficient] .... Then the coffee was planted on Huruba clan's land .... The people used to work every day .... The pay for the coffee was about 5/- to every man each year. While they were still doing this the war came. After that they did not work until Mt. Lamington erupted.